

SPEECH BY P. STATHOULIS, CHAIRMAN OF THE FEDERATION OF HELLENIC COMMUNITIES OF THE TRANSVAAL, DELIVERED ON THE OCCASION OF THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HONOURABLE MR. J. VORSTER'S ATTENDANCE AT THE PRETORIA HELLENIC COMMUNITY'S ANNUAL BALL

Sy Edele die Eerste Minister van die Republiek van Suid Afrika  
Mnr. John Vorster, Mev. Vorster, ~~Sy Edele die Minister Dr. Mulder,~~  
~~Mev. Mulder,~~ Sy Edele die Minister Dr. Koornhof, Mev. Koornhof,  
His Excellency the Ambassador for Greece Mr. Kerkinos, Mrs. Kerkinos,  
Mnr. die Burgermeester van Pretoria Raadslid Coetzee, Mev. Coetzee,  
Mnr. die Burgermeester van Verwoerdburg Raadslid Theron, Mev. Theron,  
Your Grace Most Reverend Archbishop Paul Lyngris, the Consul General  
for Greece Mr. Helmis, Mrs. Helmis, our Host President of the Hellenic  
Community of Pretoria <sup>Mr. Calinikos</sup> and Mrs. Calinikos, eeregaste, Ladies and  
Gentlemen.

Meneer die Eerste Minister u is reeds verwelkom namens almal van ons  
hier deur die Voorsitter van die Griekse Gemeenskap van Pretoria,  
Meneer John Calinikos ons gasheer, maar vergun my, Edelaagbare, om by  
te voeg dat Hellenisme inderdaad vereer is met u teenwoordigheid  
hier vanaand. Woorde kan kwalik die groot eer en voorreg wat u ons  
bewys, beskryf. Ons is Meneer die Eerste Minister, opreg dankbaar  
dat u dit goedvind om u te assosieer met nog 'n klein maar dinamiese  
sektor van u Suid Afrikaanse bevolking.

Ons die Hellene van die Republiek, nieteenstaande georganiseerde  
gemeentes dwarsdeur die land, het nie 'n aparte eiland van mense  
binne die Republiek tot stand gebring nie, trouens, ons vorm met  
trots 'n integrale en verantwoordelike sektor van die Suid Afrikaanse  
nasie soos weerspieël in die boodskap van Sy Edele die Minister  
Dr. Koornhof.

We have been allowed, even encouraged, by the very nature and principle  
of freedom afforded to the South African people to retain our Christian  
principles, ideals, culture and heritage and yet, on the other hand, we  
partake as fully pledged South Africans of undisputed loyalty, in our  
Country's everyday affairs.

The South African of Greek descent has made his mark in South Africa in the various walks of life. The Greek immigrant who has made South Africa his newly adopted homeland, quickly becomes assimilated and also forms an integral part of this wonderful nation. We assure you Sir, that we South Africans of Greek descent make it our duty and responsibility to guide and ensure that these immigrants become worthy South Africans to be integrated in this wonderful South African nation - which is today envied by the whole world.

Your presence here this evening Mr. Prime Minister, together with all our other distinguished and honoured guests, endorses and confirms this factor that we are not people who have isolated themselves but that we form an integral part of South Africa.

• Εξοχώτατε,

Τό ότι βρίσκεστε απόψε μαζί μας αποδεικνύει τή στοργή τής κυβερνήσεώς σας πρός ἡμᾶς τοὺς ἑλληνικῆς καταγωγῆς Νότιο-Αφρικανούς καί τοὺς Ἑλληνες νεομετανάστες. Αὐτό καί μόνο εἶναι ἀρκετή ἀπόδειξη τοῦ ότι εἴμαστε εὐπρόσδεκτοι σέ τούτη τήν ξεοχή χώρα ἥ ὁποία πολλά προσφέρει σέ μᾶς καί τίς οἰκογένειές μας.

We know Sir, that you would never want anyone of your people to relinquish their Christian principles, culture and heritage but on the contrary you encourage us to retain and use these for the benefit of our Country, South Africa.

• Αγαπητοί συμπατριῶτες,

Θεωρῶ μεγάλη τιμή τό ότι βρίσκομαι σ' αὐτήν τήν θέση κι' ἐκ μέρους τής Ὁμοσπονδίας τῶν Ἑλληνικῶν Κοινοτήτων TRANSVAAL θέλω νά σᾶς τονίσω ότι εἶναι σπουδαιοτάτης σημασίας τό νά ἀνήκομε στίς διάφορες Ἑλληνικές Κοινότητες καί νά φροντίζωμε γιά τήν πρόοδό τους διότι χωρίς ἀμφιβολία παίζουν σπουδαῖο καί ζωτικό ρόλο σ' ὅλους τοὺς τομεῖς τής Νότιοαφρικανικῆς κοινωνίας.



Die geskiedenis van die Helleense nasie getuig van 'n diepe waardering vir vrede en vryheid ten alle tye - vandaar dat die Hellene baie maklik aanpasbaar is in die Republiek as gevolg van die feit dat die Suid Afrikaner ook vryheid en vrede aanmoedig en respekteer, - U onlangse pogings en die sukses daarmee behaal op die internasionale front, is genoegsame bewys van hierdie stelling.

Your career Sir, as leader of our Country has been crowned with success and progress. No sooner had you become Prime Minister than you honoured the Hellenes of South Africa with your presence at the Wanderers Club in Johannesburg. You had only just then taken the reign to lead our Country to its destiny.

We South Africans have all followed your achievements with pride - your success on the international front - an arena which today is extremely difficult to partake in - has been marvelled.

We feel Sir, that because of this success, we wish to associate you with some of our Greek mythology. We do this proudly and in an honourable and sincere manner Mr. Prime Minister.

The ancient city of Athens had as its symbol the owl - the sacred bird of the Goddess Athena - the Patron of wisdom, art, science and the protector of the city of Athens - to the ancient Athenians this was the symbol of strategic victory and wisdom - we would like Sir, as offspring from that nation that left its mark in the world in many spheres, to give you this evening from the Federation of the Hellenic Communities of the Transvaal, a replica of this sacred bird of the Goddess Athena - because you have Sir, with the guidance of the Almighty, portrayed wisdom and achieved strategic victory in the affairs of South Africa as our leader - therefore Sir, please accept this work which was created by the renowned Greek master craftsman Elias Lalaounis - a work made of semi-precious stones and solid silver.

Thank you.

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